

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: August 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on July 21, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Emergency Response and Removal, Petersburg Mercury Spill,
Petersburg, Michigan**

On June 23, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) P.C. Lall, along with United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors, responded to a mercury release in a single family home in Petersburg, Michigan. Homeowners upon discovering the spill, contacted the poison control center, and State and County health officials. A Michigan community health official visited the site and documented high levels of mercury vapors throughout the house. The highest levels were recorded in the basement. The State health official advised the family to vacate the house and contacted U.S. EPA for assessment and removal. County health officials posted the imminent danger signs on the house barring occupancy until the mercury was cleaned up and indoor air was safe. The occupants of the house included a mother, her twin daughters, and a three year old grandson. A half vial of liquid mercury was recovered from a basement shelf. Two other homes in Monroe County were reported as potentially impacted because of tracking from this location.

On July 7, 2006, cleanup and screening of the impacted locations were completed and the mercury vapor levels in the indoor air were below the recommended Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) cleanup levels (1000 nanograms per cubic meter). The Health department was notified of the completion of emergency removal action. The owners were advised to continue to vent the house (weather permitting). The Health department allowed the family to reoccupy the house.

Contacts: P.C. Lall (734-692-7685)
Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)
Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

Removal Action Completed, Ertel Manufacturing Site, Indianapolis, Indiana

On July 7, 2006, U.S. EPA completed the removal activities at the Ertel Manufacturing site in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ertel produced various automotive parts and operated a foundry at the site from 1917 through 1998. In 1999, Ertel was acquired by Dynagear Corporation. Dynagear produced valves and valve guides for automobile engines until 2002. In February 2006, U.S. EPA secured the site by installing a fence around the perimeter. Cleanup began on April 25, 2006. Disposal of oils, flammable, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), and neutral liquids and solids included approximately 1,120 pounds of non-hazardous solids, 14,302 gallons of non-hazardous liquids, 1,355 pounds of hazardous solids, 41,145 gallons plus 2000 pounds of hazardous liquids, and 459 linear feet of asbestos containing material. Total cost was approximately 600,000 dollars.

Contact: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)

PRP Removal Completion, Former Zeller Corporation Site, Defiance, Ohio

On June 28, 2006, a potentially responsible party (PRP) removal action was completed at the Former Zeller Corporation Site in Defiance, Ohio, in accordance with a unilateral administrative order (UAO) between the U.S. EPA and the PRP. From the beginning of the removal action on August 9, 2005, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jon Gulch and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) oversaw the PRP during the removal of approximately 560 tons of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil; 25,530 gallons of PCB liquids; 400 pounds of waste sodium hydroxide; 165 gallons of flammable waste liquids; 17,085 gallons of non-hazardous waste water; a laboratory pack

containing ammonia, sodium nitrate, and picric acid; several dozen PCB contaminated transformers and capacitors; and 370,375 gallons of waste water, which was treated and discharged onsite. This site was referred to the U.S. EPA's Emergency Response program by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and the City of Defiance Fire Department following a transformer fire and subsequent PCB oil spill on January 5, 2005.

Contact: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Debriefings, National Brownfields Fiscal Year 2006 Grant Selection, Region 5

On July 17-19, 2006, Region 5's Brownfields and NPL Reuse Section provided feedback to approximately 30 applicants that submitted grant proposals but were not selected for brownfields funding in the National Brownfields Program award competition for 2006. Applicants were advised via letter from the Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment to schedule debriefings if they had questions about the competition outcome. Debriefings of Region 5 applicants took place through 30 individual teleconference calls.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Brownfields Proposal Guideline Teleconference, Region 5

On July 19, 2006, Region 5's Brownfields and NPL Reuse Section hosted approximately 80 local governments and/or not-for-profits interested in U.S. EPA Brownfields assessment, revolving loan, and/or cleanup grant funding in a teleconference workshop. Participants were provided information on U.S. EPA funding, the application process, and proposal tips and strategies. The workshop was designed to help potential grantees apply for grant funding in the upcoming round of competition.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Brownfields Grants Administration Workshop, Chicago, Illinois

On July 21-22, 2006, Region 5's Brownfields and NPL Reuse Section hosted approximately 48 participants in a grants administration

workshop held here in Chicago, Illinois. Communities that are first-time Brownfields grant recipients or new employees of communities and not-for-profits with an existing grant were asked to participate. Speakers included representatives from Grants, Office of Regional Counsel, and the Brownfields group. New grantees were provided an opportunity to meet grants specialists, project officers, and project managers. Moorehead, Minnesota, and Springfield, Ohio, past grant recipients, provided lessons learned for the participants. Both Moorehead and Springfield have agreed to mentor the participants in brownfields program development and start-up.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Geophysics Courses, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

On June 27-29, James Ursic and Mark Vendl of the Field Services Section assisted in teaching the Introduction to Environmental Geophysics Course which is part of the Environmental Response Training Program. This course provides individuals who have little or no geophysical experience with practical information to effectively design and supervise geophysical surveys at Superfund sites. It was taught at the Waterman Farm facility on the campus of The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. A number of clean drums have been buried at the farm to give participants a hands-on opportunity to use geophysical instruments to locate buried objects. A total of sixteen people, many from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), attended the class.

The previous week, Mark Vendl taught a short course on ground penetrating radar at the 11th International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR2006), also held at the Waterman Farm facility on the campus of The Ohio State University. This half-day course had eighteen attendees. In addition to teaching at this conference, Mr. Vendl was on the organizing committee and chaired a session on novel ground penetrating radar designs. The next conference will be held in the United Kingdom in 2008.

Contacts: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)
James Ursic (312-353-1526)

HRS QuickScore Training, Chicago, Illinois

On July 18, 2006, Laura Ripley and Erica Islas, U.S. EPA Region 5 Remedial Response Section #2, conducted a computer training on Hazard Ranking System (HRS) QuickScore Version 2.3 at U.S. EPA Region 5. The purpose of the training was to familiarize the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) with the

new updates to the HRS QuickScore software which was revised by a U.S. EPA Headquarters contractor in April 2006. HRS QuickScore was created by the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) to assist in scoring sites using U.S. EPA's HRS. HRS Quickscore is an electronic set of HRS score sheets that executes real time site scoring calculations. It is designed to assist in developing a conceptual site model for Superfund site assessments. This product is intended for use by those individuals who plan and implement preliminary assessments (PAs), site inspections (SIs), and other data collection efforts according to the HRS rule, as well as those individuals that write and review HRS documentation records.

The computer training incorporated a brief presentation on the software and then a hands-on training in Region 5's 12th Floor Computer Training Room. Paul Zanter assisted in installing the software on the computers for the class. Ten people from Illinois EPA's Office of Site Evaluation attended the training. Region 5 intends to conduct this training for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in August 2006 and will arrange trainings for the other Region 5 States.

Contacts: Laura Ripley (312-886-6040)
Erica Islas (312-353-7209)
Paul Zanter (312-886-7181)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation (Jeff Kimble), Landfill Fire Conference 2006, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency Response Section 1 received a letter of appreciation for Jeff Kimble from Joseph Koncelik, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Director. It states: "Thank you for all the effort put forth for Ohio EPA's Landfill Fire Conference 2006. The time you took to create the presentation, to speak at the conference during the weekend, and to answer questions is greatly appreciated. Your knowledge and field experience brought credibility to this conference. We have received many comments from those who attended the conference stating that they learned much and felt they took a great deal of information away with them. In sharing your experience and understanding of landfill fires, specifically the role which U.S. EPA has played in fires in Ohio, you have enlightened Ohio fire fighters, landfill operators, health departments, and inspectors as to the resources U.S. EPA may provide during a fire to protect human health and the environment. Thank you for sharing your time and knowledge

with the State of Ohio." On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Jeff Kimble, Steve Renninger, and Joe Fredle all presented during the conference.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
Tom Dunne (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OSWER)
Ed Chu (OSWER)
David Lopez (OSRTI)
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)
Susan Bromm (OECA)
Phyllis Harris (OECA)
Mike Cook (OSRTI)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Craig Beasley (OEM)
Jim Woolford (FFRRO)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers